

AMENDMENT

Kindly amend the application, without prejudice, without admission, without surrender of subject matter, and without any intention of creating any estoppel as to equivalents, as follows.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims, without prejudice, without admission, without surrender of subject matter, and without any intention of creating any estoppel as to equivalents, to read as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An isolated polypeptide, which polypeptide:
  - i) comprises ~~or consists of~~ the amino acid sequence as recited in SEQ ID NO:16 or SEQ ID NO:26;<sup>3</sup> ~~or~~
  - ii) consists of the amino acid sequence as recited in SEQ ID NO:20; ~~or~~
  - iii) is a fusion protein comprising a polypeptide according to i) or ii) or comprising a fragment of a polypeptide according to i) or ii) fused to a heterologous polypeptide;wherein the polypeptide additionally comprises an extracellular domain as recited in SEQ ID NO: 22;  
and wherein the polypeptide functions as an antagonist of cytokine expression and/or secretion of a cytokine selected from the group consisting of TNF- $\alpha$ , IL-4 and IL-2, IL-6, IL-5, and IL-10.
- 2-9. (Cancelled)
10. (Previously Presented) An isolated ligand which binds specifically to, and which inhibits the activity of a polypeptide of claim 1.
11. (Previously Presented) An isolated ligand according to claim 10, which is an antibody.
12. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ An isolated compound that either increases or decreases the level of expression or activity of a polypeptide according to claim 1, compared to the level of expression or activity of the polypeptide in the absence of the compound.
- 13-14. (Cancelled)
15. (Previously Presented) An isolated polypeptide according to claim 1 for use in therapy or diagnosis of an inflammatory disease, an autoimmune disease, liver disease, or liver failure.
- 16-19. (Cancelled)

20. (Previously Presented) A ligand according to claim 10 for use in therapy or diagnosis of an inflammatory disease, an autoimmune disease, liver disease, or liver failure.

21. (Currently Amended) A An isolated compound according to claim 12 for use in therapy or diagnosis of an inflammatory disease, an autoimmune disease, liver disease, or liver failure.

22-79. (Cancelled)

80. (New) An isolated polypeptide, which consists of the amino acid sequence as recited in SEQ ID NO:16, SEQ ID NO:26, SEQ ID NO:20; or SEQ ID NO:22, wherein the polypeptide functions as an antagonist of cytokine expression and/or secretion of a cytokine selected from the group consisting of TNF- $\alpha$ , IL-4 and IL-2, IL-6, IL-5, and IL-10.

81. (New) An isolated ligand which binds specifically to, and which inhibits the activity of a polypeptide of claim 80.

82. (New) An isolated ligand according to claim 81, which is an antibody.

83. (New) An isolated compound that either increases or decreases the level of expression or activity of a polypeptide according to claim 80, compared to the level of expression or activity of the polypeptide in the absence of the compound.

84. (New) An isolated polypeptide according to claim 80 for use in therapy or diagnosis of an inflammatory disease, an autoimmune disease, liver disease, or liver failure.

85. (New) A ligand according to claim 81 for use in therapy or diagnosis of an inflammatory disease, an autoimmune disease, liver disease, or liver failure.

86. (New) An isolated compound according to claim 83 for use in therapy or diagnosis of an inflammatory disease, an autoimmune disease, liver disease, or liver failure.

87. (New) An isolated polypeptide according to claim 1 or claim 80 fused to a heterologous polypeptide.

88. (New) An isolated ligand which binds specifically to, and which inhibits the activity of a polypeptide of claim 87.

89. (New) An isolated ligand according to claim 88, which is an antibody.

90. (New) An isolated compound that either increases or decreases the level of expression or activity of a polypeptide according to claim 87, compared to the level of expression or activity of the polypeptide in the absence of the compound.

91. (New) An isolated polypeptide according to claim 87 for use in therapy or diagnosis of an inflammatory disease, an autoimmune disease, liver disease, or liver failure.
92. (New) A ligand according to claim 88 for use in therapy or diagnosis of an inflammatory disease, an autoimmune disease, liver disease, or liver failure.
93. (New) An isolated compound according to claim 90 for use in therapy or diagnosis of an inflammatory disease, an autoimmune disease, liver disease, or liver failure.